



EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES

BUENOS AIRES • ARGENTINA



Ambassador Earl Anthony Wayne Remarks at Swearing in Ceremony November 2, 2006

Thank you, Secretary Rice for your very kind remarks.

Ambassadors, Secretaries, colleagues and friends, it is a great pleasure that you are here today.

I would very much like to thank the President and you, Madame Secretary, for nominating me to serve as the Ambassador of the United States of America to the Republic of Argentina. I am humbled before the responsibility to nurture and strengthen relations between our two democracies.

Some thirty-one years ago, I had the honor of being sworn into the Foreign Service in this room. The room was not nearly so beautiful, as it is today. I had much longer hair, a beard and was much better at tennis. The international scene we faced then was largely characterized by the struggle with communism. But, despite the changes, my enthusiasm to serve our great democracy and to facilitate relations with others who are building liberty, prosperity and security remains as strong as ever.

Each of my assignments has provided opportunities to do good. During those years, I was especially honored to work with many of you in:

- ☐ expanding our cooperation with the Europe;
- ☐ building coalitions against terrorism, notably after during the first Gulf war;
- ☐ explaining international events to the American people;
- ☐ forging economic links to enhance prosperity;
- ☐ promoting new approaches to development;
- ☐ cutting the flow of funds to terrorists;
- ☐ helping nations respond to economic crises, and
- ☐ rallying donors to help countries overcome the damage of war, isolation, and natural disaster.

I have repeatedly been awed by the creativity, dedication and persistence of my American and international colleagues. Along the way, they have taught me the importance of building effective partnerships and teams, and the value of good communication to find common ground and to generate creative ideas. I have learned

that no matter what our formal positions in an organization, we can all be “leaders” in helping to find solutions, and that such participatory leadership encourages success.

I will do my best to draw on these lessons as Ambassador to Argentina. I want to express my thanks to many of you here today who helped me learn these lessons and many more. You have been such valuable partners, mentors, role models, team members and, importantly, friends.

I could not possibly thank all of you adequately without neglecting some. But, please know that I appreciate and greatly value each of you and our work together.

I want recognize my family who are here today. They have been a bed rock for me. I want to express thanks to my aunt, Nadine Porto, and two of her sons Steve and Phil Porto, as well as Phil's fiancée Dorothy, who have traveled from California to be with us. I want to express appreciation to my sister-in-law and her husband, Diane and Clark Johnson, and to my sister-in-law, Suzette Perkins, and my nephew and niece, Holt and Emmy, all of whom came from New England to join us.

I am especially grateful that my daughter Kristen and my son Justin are here. Those of you who have seen the many photos in my office know a bit about the joy and blessing they have brought into my life. I also want to recognize my son-in-law Brian Hahs; he is a great second son, even if he beats me so easily at tennis!

I want to express gratitude for my most important partner, my wife Pamela. For almost thirty years of marriage, Pam has been my closest and wisest counselor, my dearest friend, and a wonderful mother to our children. In my new role, Pam will continue to be my vital partner.

My duties as Ambassador to Argentina include very important responsibilities. My predecessors and good friends Lino Gutierrez and Jim Walsh have left me an outstanding base from which to build.

Here in Washington, Argentina's Ambassador, Jose Octavio Bordon, has done excellent work in sustaining and strengthening our bilateral relations. Ambassador Bordon, I especially thank you for your generous support as I prepared for my assignment.

Both Argentina and the United States are nations built largely from immigrants who crossed the Atlantic searching for a better future in a land of promise. Both nations share a strong commitment to democratic values and institutions and to the defense of human rights. Both aspire to promote hemispheric and global prosperity, stability and security.

Argentina and the United States have a good record of cooperation in the United Nations, in peacekeeping, in countering nuclear proliferation, and in fighting crime, terrorism and drug trafficking. Our students, professors, researchers and tourists are

building vital people-to-people ties. With well over 400 US businesses operating in Argentina, our economic ties are both substantial and have endured through good times and bad.

Certainly, we have differences of opinion. These are normal among friends and neighbors. The question is how best to address these differences and how to move ahead in mutually beneficial ways.

I intend to listen to and to learn from the perspectives of Argentines and others interested in our bilateral relations. With this input, our embassy team and I will work to deepen the strong relationship that our two countries have enjoyed in recent years.

We will seek to maintain and strengthen the open and productive dialogue with President Kirchner and his government, so that we are able to work through problem areas, with good understanding of each partner's perspective and with a desire to find solutions.

We will build upon existing cooperation and common objectives to increase our effectiveness, for example, in fighting crime and terrorism, in stopping nuclear proliferation, and in promoting peace and security.

We will give priority to expanding the exchanges and interactions between our peoples, so that our students, teachers, researchers and ordinary citizens can more easily benefit from the cultural and natural riches of both countries.

The embassy team and I will encourage an even more vibrant economic partnership which will create jobs and generate greater prosperity for both peoples. There is great potential for expanding trade and investment bilaterally, regionally, and internationally via the WTO.

We will strive to demonstrate America's commitment to fighting the ills of poverty, social exclusion, and corruption, as well as to highlight the benefits of productive engagement with the private sector.

The Embassy team, with our colleagues here in Washington, will engage in vigorous and lively exchanges with the Argentine public and media to explain American perspectives on important issues.

As I look to the future of US-Argentine relations, the words of Argentine statesman and educator Domingo Faustino Sarmiento provide inspiration. Nearly 150 years ago, Sarmiento wrote the following to a friend while he was serving as Argentina's Ambassador to the US: "I shall make this country known in Argentina, and their relations will always be cordial." Sarmiento's goal will also guide my efforts in Argentina.

In preparing for my new role, I have often thought of one of my favorite Bible passages. It is from **Micah 6:8**.

“And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly, and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.”

I will strive to follow that counsel, and will do my very best to serve the United States, to promote the values that we hold dear, and to deepen our relations and cooperation with Argentina.

Thank you all very much for honoring me and my family by being here this afternoon. I will count on your support and friendship.